

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY**  
**LAND CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 18.94 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Land Conservation Subcommittee** was held on Monday, March 23, 2015 in Room 161, UW Extension, 1150 Bellevue Street, Green Bay, WI

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**Present:** Chairman Dantinne; Supervisors: Bernie Erickson, Tom Sieber, Dave Kaster, Dave Landwehr; and Mr. Dan De Grave

**Also Present:** Jim Jolly (Director – Land Conservation)  
Troy Streckenbach (County Executive)

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**I. Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dantinne at 6:00 PM

**II. Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, Seconded by Supervisor Kaster to approve. Vote Taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. Approve/Modify Minutes of February 23, 2015.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, Seconded by Mr. Dan DeGrave to approve. Vote Taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Comments from the Public**

**1. Budget Status Financial Report, December, 2014 (unaudited).**

Jim Jolly presented. The department is in the black by \$49,264 for 2014. They have used \$40,000 of that for the purchase of new vehicles that the committee approved a couple of meetings ago. The remainder of the funds are being transferred over to the demo farms project to cover 25% of the cost of the staff person.

Supervisor Kaster asked about public charges and why were they up. Jolly said it was a combination of the tree program, ordinance revenues, and the \$85,000 from the 50 cent fee. Jolly said that the ordinance revenues were up.

**Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, Seconded by Supervisor Kaster to Receive and Place on File. Vote Taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2. Resolution re: Change in Table of Organization for the Land and Water Conservation Department (Agronomist Technician).**

Jolly said this was a grant that was applied for by a non-profit in the valley called the Fox/Wolf Watershed Alliance. Jolly said that the conservation department works with the non-profit quite extensively. Jolly described the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) situation and that Ag organizations have been given a goal for reduction of phosphorous. Jolly continued that Brown County sat on a committee that looked at how to implement Ag industry reductions. They decided to take the highest priority watersheds first, and do a plan on those. This program will cost \$5,300,000 over five years.

Brown County's portion will be for the staff salary and fringe benefits. This is a five year position, and the county will receive a sub-award from Fox/Wolf Watershed Alliance to cover the cost. The money is coming from EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Jolly said they have dealt with EPA grants before and it's pretty basic and straightforward. As long as they can negotiate for the 100% staff grant, there is going to be very little cost to Brown County. Jolly feels that it is a good deal for the county.

Supervisor Landwehr asked who is covering transportation. Jolly said that he had budgeted for it. Supervisor Landwehr asked again if the county will be footing the bill for transportation needs. Jolly said yes.

Supervisor Kaster asked about water quality trading. Jolly said it is a way that industries and waste water treatment plants to benefit from the work conservation does with agriculture. When a farm that delivers 500 lbs of phosphorous to the watershed is reduced do to conservations work, that farm can then get credit for 250 lbs. They can take those pounds and sell them to the waste water treatment plant as an offset.

Supervisor Kaster asked about the 50 foot buffers. He wanted clarity as if that was total or on each side of the stream. Jolly said it is per side so it is a 100 ft buffer zone, but only in Outagamie County. In Brown, they will follow their 35 ft rule.

Supervisor Kaster asked about automated monitoring equipment staying out there. Jolly said it stays out there for five years. The equipment is USGS equipment, so it is the top of the class, Cadillac of equipment.

**Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, Seconded by Supervisor Sieber to approve. Vote Taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **3. Director's Report.**

Jolly began by saying he wanted to bring the committee up to speed with regards to the demo farms. He had a pretty successful workshop in the building with an attendance of 65 people, and over half were farmers. Because of the workshop, farmers are planning to do things differently this year for implementation.

Jolly talked about the Fox Trade. He's been working with the group on how the market structure would look. They are looking at a brokered bilateral trade between the farmer and the point source. The broker would setup and manage the contracts. Land Conservation would figure out how many credits could be sold, aggregate and certify them, and then hand them over to the broker to be sold. Everybody would benefit, and it could be a big exchange of money. Jolly believes this could be a future revenue source of the money.

Supervisor Dantine asked if the farmer gets paid for the credits. Jolly said the farmer would get paid for the credits at a negotiated price. The range is from \$50-\$150 per pound, but really depends what the point sources are willing to pay.

Jolly said that supervisors might be hearing that constituents are receiving postcards from Land Conservation. The department sent out two postcards recently. One was a notice that nutrient testing needs to be completed, and the second was to notify towns, farmers, and contractors that permits are needed from Land Conservation if they are doing expansions or manure storage. In the last couple months, they have had six that failed to get permits and now have to

work with them for after the fact charges. Jolly said they don't like doing that, but they are giving them an opportunity to treat it as a regular permit application.

The last thing Jolly wants to talk about is how they are progressing with the community feasibility study for the digester. He has created a presentation for farmers, and are working with the UW-Extension for outreach. They want to reach out to gauge how much interest there is to form a community effort around waste transformation.

Supervisor Dantine has a comment on the digester. He says the two biggest hurdles are one, the cost, and secondly, Wisconsin Public Service. He says it's a losing battle. Manure is a continuous non-natural resource. He thinks that farmers want to make electricity. Farmers should be able to use their own electricity first. If he is selling energy at 8 cents and then being charged 12 cents on the back end; it doesn't make sense. He should be able to use his own energy first and then sell the excess. Supervisor Dantine wants to work with Jolly. Jolly said they will have to look at various revenue streams to make this thing work. Energy itself will not do the job. They will have to look nationwide and build an attractive package for the farmer.

Supervisor Dantine asked about the Oneida Tribe and NEW Waters doing something on their own. Jolly said that the county is involved. It's New Waters way to prove if adaptive management works. They are trying to prove that they can get the in-stream water quality results in a 4 year period of time.

Supervisor Erickson asked about the digester. Talked about a presentation a while back by a guy who designs digesters. He said that pay back is less than production costs. Supervisor Erickson says that if the county decides to jump into something, they better be sure they aren't going to operate at a loss. Jolly said it's the purpose of the feasibility study. One of the big components of the feasibility study is an own and operate design outcome.

Supervisor Erickson also commented on the approval of the agronomist position. He asked Jolly if Land Conservation was in contact with the UW-Extension since they are asking for a 12 week staff person. Jolly said that they were in contact and the UW-Extension position would be helpful to this effort. They will take five test cases. The information will be extremely valuable for the consultants.

County Executive Troy Strekenbach said that in April they will be going to Dane County to see their digester and CNG landfill. They are in the process of converting their fleet into CNG vehicles. There is quite a lot of work being done at feco. The county is trying to learn more for long term sustainability.

Supervisor Kaster asked about a place by Denmark. They seem to take everything and they must be making money. Jolly said he doesn't know a lot of about that specific business, but they have had issues with nutrient management in that area.

Mr. DeGrave asked if there is different set of rules for farmer waste verses industrial waste. Jolly said yes, that industrial was monitored, permitted, and licensed by the DNR.

**Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, Seconded by Supervisor Landwehr to Receive and Place on File. Vote Taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

Supervisor Sieber said that with Mr. DeGrave present, they should discuss a change in date for the May meeting.

**5. Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Landwehr, Seconded by Supervisor Sieber to adjourn at 6:20 PM. Vote Taken.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brian B. Lueth  
Recording Secretary